

IMPORTANT SERVICES OF THE STATE GUARDS TO
THE UNION

Chapter 4

These soldiers were not pensioned or rewarded like the rest of the army. Yet his services were of great peril and importance. They were in service about fourteen months.

In April 1864 the state guards were organized and took charge of the danger zone in West Virginia and in May 1864 the entire force of the regular army of West Virginia was on the move into Virginia to report to General Hunter at Staunton. From that time to the end of the war this regular army fought east of the mountains.

The policy of West Virginia during the last year of the war was given over entirely to the state guards. Yet they have been ignored. Most of the southern states have taken very good care of destitute southern veterans. But very few of these from Pocahontas ever received a pension.

These guards had all the standing of regular sworn defenders wore a unifrom, and were authorized by law to lay down their lives for the Union.

Pocahontas County - State Guards - Adjustant or mustering officers;

Claiborne Pierson - Comm. August 8, 1861
John Sharp - Commissioned September 30, 1863

Captain Samuel Young's company
compiled from roll dated February 14, 1865
Captain Samuel Young- commissioned as Captain August 29, 1864

Enlisted Men

Benjamin Arbogast - Sergeant
John H. Armstrong - Sergeant
Alexander Atchison (this name probably should be Adkison)
Ruben Buzzard (now spelled Bussard)

George Cochran
Thomas Cunningham
Jeremiah Dilley
Clark Dilley (in the Blue Book this name is listed as Martin C. but he was usually known as Clark)

William Gay
John Gibson
Jonathan Griffin
Jesse Gregory
Morgan Grimes
William Hannah
Aaron Kee
George Williams
John Kellison
William Kennison
Peter McCarty
William McCarty
George W. McKeever
Aaron Moore
Hanson Moore
Harrison Moore
John Moore
Washington Neff
Henry Pugh
Moffett Pugh
George Rogers
James L. Rodgers (Rogers is the way they all spell their name now)

Martin Sharp
Henry Sharp
John H. Simms
P. A. Smith
John U. Wanless
Milton Sharp
Columbus Silvey
William Simmons
-----Sines
Newton Wanless
William M. Wanless
Sheldon Hannah

Captain Allen's Pocahontas Scouts
Captain I. Walton Allen - Commissioned
Captain of Pocahontas County Scouts to rank April 4, 1864
Enlisted men -

Benjamin H. Adkison
Allen Arbogast
D. M. Burgess
Clark Young
B. B. Carvey
John Grimes
Samuel Grant
Robert Green
Adam Gregory
George Griffin
Joseph Hannah
Michael Hass

Kane Hinkle
William Johnson
John McLaughlin
Joseph Rapp
Christopher Silva
John Slaten
David Sullivan
Marcus Waugh
Solomon Westfall
Jacob Weiford
Robert Wilkins
J. B. Wright
William Hannah

Probably not a complete list.

Joseph Gay was noted Confederate scout. His company took part in the Battle of Duncan's Lane, but so far I have not been able to get a list of those in his company.

Walton Allen was a sworn in Union soldier, but did not always conduct himself in an honorable way. In fact, he was one of the most unlawful of the bushwhackers, shooting at people who were his nearest neighbors. People who had befriended him many times, stealing when ever he found food, horses etc., that he wished to have. He shot and wounded Hugh McLaughlin. Before the war he had stayed over night many times at the McLaughlin home and had partaken of their hospitality. Things like this that were done by him and others did more than anything else to deepen the hatred the Confederates of this countyfelt against the Yankees.

Allen's home is less than a mile from where I was born. I remember him well, and have been at his home many times. The old log house still stands and was used as a dwelling until about three years ago.

I'm afraid he never was able to win back the respect of his neighbors, for even to this day people of this section of the county have very little good to say about him. Almost every one can tell of some misdeed he did such as shooting at some member of their family, stealing a cow or horse, drinking the milk out of their dairys. It was just unfortunate for the Federals that a man like that should be put in a position to do things like that. Of course many of the soldiers practiced this bushwhacking, but none are spoken of with so much bitterness as Walt Allen is.